

Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Interior

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from all locations on which the operator is issued the surface coal mining and reclamation permit will not exceed 300,000 tons. Production from the following operations shall be attributed to the applicant:

(i) The pro rata share, based upon percentage of ownership of applicant, of coal produced by operations in which the applicant owns more than a 10 percent interest;

(ii) The pro rata share, based upon percentage of ownership of applicant, of coal produced in other operations by persons who own more than 10 percent of the applicant's operation;

(iii) All coal produced by operations owned by persons who directly or indirectly control the applicant by reason of direction of the management;

(iv) All coal produced by operations owned by members of the applicant's family and the applicants' relatives, unless it is established that there is no direct or indirect business relationship between or among them.

(3) Is not restricted in any manner from receiving a permit under the permanent regulatory program; and

(4) Does not organize or reorganize his or her company solely for the purpose of obtaining assistance under the SOAP.

(b) A State may provide alternate criteria or procedures for determining the eligibility of an operator for assistance under the program, provided that such criteria may not be used as a basis for grant requests in excess of that which would be authorized under the criteria of paragraph (a) of this section.

[48 FR 2272, Jan. 18, 1983, as amended at 59 FR 28168, May 31, 1994]

§ 795.7 Filing for assistance.

Each application for assistance shall include the following information:

(a) A statement of the operator's intent to file a permit application.

(b) The names and addresses of—

(1) The permit applicant; and

(2) The operator if different from the applicant.

(c) A schedule of the estimated total production of coal from the proposed permit area and all other locations from which production is attributed to

the applicant under § 795.6 The schedule shall include for each location—

(1) The operator or company name under which coal is or will be mined;

(2) The permit number and Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) number;

(3) The actual coal production during the year preceding the year for which the applicant applies for assistance and production that may be attributed to the applicant under § 795.6; and

(4) The estimated coal production and any production which may be attributed to the applicant for each year of the proposed permit.

(d) A description of—

(1) The proposed method of coal mining;

(2) The anticipated starting and termination dates of mining operations;

(3) The number of acres of land to be affected by the proposed mining operation; and

(4) A general statement on the probable depth and thickness of the coal resource including a statement of reserves in the permit area and the method by which they were calculated.

(e) A U.S. Geological Survey topographic map at a scale of 1:24,000 or larger or other topographic map of equivalent detail which clearly shows—

(1) The area of land to be affected;

(2) The location of any existing or proposed test borings; and

(3) The location and extent of known workings of any underground mines.

(f) Copies of documents which show that—

(1) The applicant has a legal right to enter and commence mining within the permit area; and

(2) A legal right of entry has been obtained for the program administrator and laboratory personnel to inspect the lands to be mined and adjacent areas to collect environmental data or to install necessary instruments.

§ 795.8 Application approval and notice.

(a) If the program administrator finds the applicant eligible, he or she shall inform the applicant in writing that the application is approved.

(b) If the program administrator finds the applicant ineligible, he or she shall inform the applicant in writing

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that the application is denied and shall state the reasons for denial.

§ 795.9 Program services and data requirements.

(a) To the extent possible with available funds, the program administrator shall select and pay a qualified laboratory to make the determination and statement and provide other services referenced in paragraph (b) of this section for eligible operators who request assistance.

(b) The program administrator shall determine the data needed for each applicant or group of applicants. Data collected and the results provided to the program administrator shall be sufficient to satisfy the requirements for:

(1) The determination of the probable hydrologic consequences of the surface mining and reclamation operation in the proposed permit area and adjacent areas, including the engineering analyses and designs necessary for the determination in accordance with §§ 780.21(f), 784.14(e), and any other applicable provisions of this chapter;

(2) The drilling and statement of the results of test borings or core samplings for the proposed permit area in accordance with §§ 780.22(b) and 784.22(b) and any other applicable provisions of this chapter;

(3) The development of cross-section maps and plans required by §§ 779.25 and 783.25;

(4) The collection of archaeological and historic information and related plans required by §§ 779.12(b) and 783.12(b) and §§ 780.31 and 784.17 and any other archaeological and historic information required by the regulatory authority;

(5) Pre-blast surveys required by § 780.13; and

(6) The collection of site-specific resources information, the production of protection and enhancement plans for fish and wildlife habitats required by §§ 780.16 and 784.21, and information and plans for any other environmental values required by the regulatory authority under the act.

(c) Data collection and analysis may proceed concurrently with the development of mining and reclamation plans by the operator.

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(d) Data collected under this program shall be made publicly available in accordance with § 773.6(d) of this chapter. The program administrator shall develop procedures for interstate coordination and exchange of data.

[48 FR 2272, Jan. 18, 1983, as amended at 48 FR 44780, Sept. 30, 1983; 59 FR 28168, May 31, 1994, as amended at 65 FR 79670, Dec. 19, 2000]

§ 795.10 Qualified laboratories.

(a) *Basic qualifications.* To be designated a qualified laboratory, a firm shall demonstrate that it—

(1) Is staffed with experienced, professional or technical personnel in the fields applicable to the work to be performed;

(2) Has adequate space for material preparation and cleaning and sterilizing equipment and has stationary equipment, storage, and space to accommodate workloads during peak periods;

(3) Meets applicable Federal or State safety and health requirements;

(4) Has analytical, monitoring and measuring equipment capable of meeting applicable standards; and

(5) Has the capability of collecting necessary field samples and making hydrologic field measurements and analytical laboratory determinations by acceptable hydrologic, geologic, or analytical methods in accordance with the requirements of §§ 780.21, 780.22, 784.14 and 784.22 and any other applicable provisions of this chapter. Other appropriate methods or guidelines for data acquisition may be approved by the program administrator.

(6) Has the capability of performing services for either the determination or statement referenced in § 795.9(b).

(b) *Subcontractors.* Subcontractors, may be used to provide some of the required services provided their use is identified at the time a determination is made that a firm is qualified and they meet requirements specified by the program administrator.

§ 795.11 Assistance funding.

(a) *Use of funds.* Funds specifically authorized for this program shall be used to provide the services specified in § 795.9 and shall not be used to cover administrative expenses.